



BOROUGH OF CHRISTCHURCH



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ANNUAL REPORT

on the

Health of the Borough

for the year

1970

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FOR THE YEAR

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by

D.J.N. McNab, V.R.D., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

and

CLEMENT WILLARD, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Chief Public Health Inspector and Cleansing

Superintendent.

HEALTH COMMITTEE - JANUARY TO APRIL 1970

HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE - MAY TO DECEMBER, 1970

The Worshipful The Mayor, Councillor H.R. Bourke (January to May)
The Worshipful The Mayor, Councillor J.S.C. Morgan (May to December)
Councillor A.R. Wiggins (Chairman - January to April) (Vice-Chairman
May to December)
Councillor Mrs. I.A. Stevenson (Chairman - May to December)
Alderman Miss C. Sharp (May to December)
Alderman K.L. Smith (January to April)
Councillor R. Affleck (Vice-Chairman January to April)
Councillor Mrs. M.P. Bryan (May to December)
Councillor J. Beauchamp (January to April)
Councillor W.F.S. Freestone (January to April)
Councillor K.W.L. Gibbs (January to April)
Councillor R.H. Hewitt (May to December)
Councillor J.O. Holroyd-Doveton (May to December)
Councillor W.C.F. Horsford (January to December)
Councillor M. Lynk (January to April)
Councillor Mrs. V.R. Newbury (May to December)
Councillor T. Staniforth (January to December)

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health:

D.J.N. McNAB, V.R.D., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Also Medical Officer of Health of the Rural District of Ringwood and Fordingbridge and Borough of Lymington and an Assistant County Medical Officer for the County of Hampshire.

Address: Druitt Buildings, Christchurch.
Telephone No: Christchurch 4321.

Chief Public Health Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent:

CLEMENT WILLARD, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector and Improvement Officer.

M.H. STOREY, M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspectors.

D.J. Cartridge, M.A.P.H.I.
R.F. Blinkhorn, M.A.P.H.I.

BOROUGH OF CHRISTCHURCH

R E P O R T

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1970

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS

OF THE BOROUGH OF CHRISTCHURCH

I submit for your information and consideration my twenty fourth Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of your Borough.

As an integral part of this Report there follows the Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector on those sections of the work of the Health Department with which he is specially concerned.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS:

The ancient Borough of Christchurch lies in the extreme south-west corner of the Administrative County of Hampshire at the confluence of the rivers Avon and Stour. It encircles much of Christchurch harbour, a shallow land-locked tidal basin, which is a mecca for yachtsmen and naturalists. To the west lies the busy resort of Bournemouth, to the east the ancient Borough of Lymington, and to the north the New Forest. The area has much to offer and is therefore popular for retirement resulting in an imbalance of population. There is a falling birth rate and a high death rate.

The population has now reached over 32,000, a rise of 92% in the past 25 years, almost entirely by immigration.

Industries are many and varied, from the aircraft industry and its dependencies, Government research, the manufacture of wallpaper, industrial castors, electrical instruments and components, to boat building and the making of fishing tackle.

The recent white paper on Local Government Re-organisation proposes considerable changes. The Borough is destined to combine with other authorities and is likely to come under the jurisdiction of a new county to the west, basically Dorset.

RAINFALL FOR 1970:(at Sewage Disposal Works, Stony Lane)

	<u>Ins.</u>		<u>Ins.</u>
January	5.82	July	1.29
February... ..	2.05	August	1.31
March	2.86	September... ..	2.63
April	1.70	October	0.60
May	1.31	November	7.7
June	1.04	December	1.03
<u>TOTAL: 29.34 inches.</u>			

GENERAL STATISTICS:

Area: 4,807 acres (Census 1961)

Population: Registrar-General's estimate for mid-year 1970: 32,010.

Number of inhabited houses: 11,808.

Rateable value: 31.3.70: £1,944,844.

Sum represented by a penny rate: £7,808. 17s. 10d.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1970: (as supplied by the Registrar-General)

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Borough of Christchurch</u>	<u>England & Wales</u>
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LIVE BIRTHS

Total	364	177	187
Legitimate	338	162	176
Illegitimate	26	15	11

LIVE BIRTH RATE(Area comparability factor 1.45)

per 1,000 population	11.4	16.0
Local Adjusted Rate	16.5	
Ratio of Local Adjusted Rate to National Rate..	1.03	1.00

<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Borough of</u> <u>Christchurch</u>	<u>England &</u> <u>Wales</u>
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ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS:

per cent. of total live births ...	7	8
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STILL BIRTHS:

Total	5	3	2
Legitimate	5	3	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-

STILL BIRTH RATE:

per 1,000 total (live & still) births.	14	13
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TOTAL LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS: 369

INFANT DEATHS:

Deaths under one year of age

Total	5	2	3
Legitimate	5	2	3
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Deaths under 4 weeks of age

Total	3	1	2
Legitimate	3	1	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Deaths under one week of age

Total	3	1	2
Legitimate	3	1	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-

INFANT MORTALITY RATE:

Deaths under one year

per 1,000 live births- Total	13.7	18
per 1,000 live births- Legitimate	14.8	17
per 1,000 live births- Illegitimate	-	26

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Borough of Christchurch</u>	<u>England and Wales</u>
<u>NEONATAL MORTALITY RATE:</u>					
<u>Deaths under 4 weeks</u>					
per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	8	12
<u>EARLY NEONATAL MORTALITY RATE:</u>					
<u>Deaths under one week</u>					
per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	8	11
<u>PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE:</u>					
<u>Stillbirths and deaths under one week combined</u>					
per 1,000 total (live & still) births				22	23
<u>MATERNAL DEATHS: (Including abortion):</u> NIL.					
<u>MATERNAL MORTALITY RATE:</u>					
per 1,000 total (live & still) births				Nil	0.18
<u>DEATHS:</u>	502	254	248		
<u>DEATH RATE: (Area Comparability Factor 0.65)</u>					
per 1,000 population	...	...	...	15.7	11.7
Local Adjusted Rate	...	...	...	10.2	
Ratio of Local Adjusted Rate to National Rate				.87	1.00
<u>SPECIAL CAUSES:</u>					
<u>Death rate per 1,000 population</u>					
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	0.03	0.03
Cancer (lung and bronchus)	...	...	...	1.28	0.62
Cancer (all causes)	...	...	...	3.31	2.39

CAUSES OF DEATH:

		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
B 4	Enteritis and Other Diarrhoeal Diseases	-	1
B 6(2)	Other Tuberculosis	1	-
B18	Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	1	1
B19(1)	Malignant neoplasm, Buccal cavity	1	-
B19(2)	Malignant neoplasm, Oesophagus	2	2
B19(3)	Malignant neoplasm, Stomach	3	-
B19(4)	Malignant neoplasm, Intestine	8	7
B19(5)	Malignant neoplasm, Larynx	1	-
B19(6)	Malignant neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	34	7
B19(7)	Malignant neoplasm, Breast	-	11
B19(8)	Malignant neoplasm, Uterus	-	6
B19(9)	Malignant neoplasm, Prostate	3	-
B19(10)	Leukaemia	2	1
B19(11)	Other malignant neoplasms	7	11
B20	Benign and Unspecified Neoplasms	3	1
B21	Diabetes Mellitus	2	-
B46(1)	Other Endocrine etc. Diseases	-	1
B23	Anaemias	1	-
B46(5)	Other Diseases of Nervous System	5	1
B26	Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	5	7
B27	Hypertensive Disease	2	4
B28	Ischaemic Heart Disease	89	50
B29	Other Forms of Heart Disease	6	16
B30	Cerebrovascular Disease	20	41
B46(6)	Other Diseases of Circulatory System	7	20
B31	Influenza	2	2
B32	Pneumonia	13	24
B33(1)	Bronchitis and Emphysema	10	4
B46(7)	Other Diseases of Respiratory System	1	5
B34	Peptic Ulcer	4	-
B36	Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	-	3
B37	Cirrhosis of Liver	1	-
B46(8)	Other Diseases of Digestive System	1	2
B38	Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	2
B39	Hyperplasia of Prostate	3	-
B46(9)	Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	1	1
B46(10)	Diseases of Skin, Subcutaneous Tissue	-	1
B46(11)	Diseases of Musculo Skeletal System	1	1
B42	Congenital Anomalies	2	1
B43	Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc.	-	1
B45	Symptoms and Ill Defined Conditions	-	1
BE47	Motor Vehicle Accidents	3	1
BE48	All Other Accidents	5	6
BE49	Suicide and Self -Inflicted Injuries	3	4
BE50	All Other External Causes	-	1
Total All Causes		254	248

COMPARATIVE VITAL STATISTICS:
(Since the District was formed in 1932)

Year	Population	Borough of Christchurch			England and Wales		
		I.M.R.	B.R.	D.R.	I.M.R.	B.R.	D.R.
1932	11,250	62.5	17.0	11.3	65	15.3	12.0
1937	13,540	45.0	14.8	12.5	58	14.9	12.4
1942	15,200	30.0	17.5	13.3	49	15.8	11.6
1947	18,180	30.0	19.7	12.8	41	20.5	12.0
1952	21,290	21.9	14.9	11.0	27.6	15.3	11.3
1957	23,790	9.0	14.0	12.9	23.0	16.1	11.5
1962	26,640	11.9	12.6	15.1	21.4	18.0	11.9
1966	29,610	10.9	12.4	15.5	19.0	17.7	11.7
1967	30,270	24.1	12.3	15.7	18.3	17.2	11.2
1968	31,140	23.0	12.5	15.9	18.0	16.9	11.9
1969	31,780	11.0	11.5	13.9	18.0	16.3	11.9
1970	32,010	13.7	11.4	15.7	18.0	16.0	11.7

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE:

Disease	Number notified
Measles	21
Scarlet Fever ...	2
Infective Jaundice	1
Dysentery.. ...	6
Food Poisoning ...	2

TUBERCULOSIS:

		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total
		M.	F.	M.	F.	
No. on Register at 31.12.70:	...	175	124	17	21	337
No. of new notifications	...	1	-	-	-	1
Transfers from other areas	...	-	2	-	-	2
Deaths ... ..	...	-	-	1	-	1

LUNG CANCER:

41 deaths occurred from lung cancer, by far the largest number ever to have been recorded in one year in the Borough. 17 of the deaths were inhabitants under the age of 65. 215 lung cancer deaths have occurred in the Borough in the last ten years, 119 of them in the last quinquennium.

The national death rate from lung cancer continues to rise year by year. 30,218 deaths occurred in 1970, 455 more than the previous year. The number of deaths per annum has increased by 8,000 in the past ten years and by 18,000 in the past twenty. This is a staggering increase which surely cannot be ignored.

There have been recent reports from the Royal College of Physicians and the World Health Organisation showing how smoking causes "many thousands of premature deaths every year" in that it has "serious effects in promoting the development of pulmonary and cardiac disease, including broncho-pulmonary cancer, chronic bronchitis, emphysema and ischaemic heart disease". There can be few smokers who are not aware that it is a lethal habit and yet "reject its relevance to themselves". In addition they ignore the displeasure and discomfort that their smoke may cause to others in their company.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA:

1. Laboratory Facilities.

The Borough is served by a constituent laboratory of the Public Health Laboratory Service sited within Poole General Hospital. It remains under the direction of Dr. G.J.G. King. We are constantly indebted to Dr. King and his technicians for their assistance and advice.

The following list of specimens from the Borough examined at the Laboratory during the year, has been kindly supplied by the Director.

Urines	9
Faeces	25
Bloods	9
Other Human	29
Milk	1
Waters	28
Ice Cream	<u>95</u>
	<u>196</u>

2. Hospitals.

Christchurch Hospital - acute and chronic.

The majority of patients from the Borough requiring hospital treatment go to the Royal Victoria Hospital, Bournemouth.

Cases of infectious disease are treated at the infectious diseases unit at Poole General Hospital.

3. Tuberculosis.

The Chest Clinic is held at Christchurch Hospital where the Chest Physician, Dr. A.T. Hendry, holds a joint appointment with the Regional Hospital Board and the County Council. A Health Visitor is also in attendance.

SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL.

1. Ambulance Service.

The area Ambulance Service is provided from a main station at Lymington with sub-stations at Christchurch and Ringwood. All ambulances are fitted with wireless and are controlled from a central control at Winchester, to which all requests for ambulance services must be directed.

The Central Ambulance Control,
Queens Road,
WINCHESTER.

Tel: Winchester 61644

Emergency 999 calls are routed direct to central control.

2. Nursing Services.

Details of Nurses and their areas:-

<u>District served.</u>	<u>Name and address</u>	<u>Service</u>
Attached to Drs. Kay, Pearce, and Elphick, Dr. McLeish and Dr. Smith and unattached G.P.'s other than Bournemouth.	Miss A Newbury, 9, Drummond Road, Boscombe, Bournemouth. Tel:Bournemouth 39177	DISTRICT NURSE
Attached to Drs. Bolton, Cantlie, Dr. Freeth and Bournemouth G.P.'s	VACANCY	DISTRICT NURSE/ MIDWIFE
Christchurch	Mrs. E.G. Sprackland, 12, Carisbrooke Way, Highcliffe, Christchurch. Tel:Highcliffe 2433	GENERAL RELIEF
Attached to Drs. Wyatt, Carr and Scott-Jupp. Midwifery - Drs. Bolton and Cantlie.	Mrs. Q. Boothby, 46 Hunt Road, Somerford, Christchurch. Tel:Christchurch 5091	DISTRICT NURSE/ MIDWIFE
Attached to Drs. Falkner Lee, Brooks, Harcourt Webster and Gilbertson and Dr. Barnett.	Mrs. I. Sherwood, 2, Bracken Way, Highcliffe, Christchurch. Tel:Highcliffe 3282	DISTRICT NURSE/ MIDWIFE
Attached to Drs. Deane, Druitt and Lawrence. Midwifery - Drs. Moore, Freeth Hutchinson and Bournemouth G.P.'s.	Mrs. P.M. Dinsley, 25, Stanpit, Christchurch. Tel:Christchurch 6204	DISTRICT NURSE/ MIDWIFE
Christchurch/Highcliffe	Miss K. Ella, 13, Edward Road, Christchurch. Tel:Christchurch 2225	GENERAL RELIEF DISTRICT NURSE

<u>District served</u>	<u>Name and address</u>	<u>Service</u>
Attached to Drs. Falkner Lee, Brooks, Harcourt Webster and Gilbertson.	Miss I.K. Webb, 280, Lymington Road, Highcliffe, Christchurch. Tel: Highcliffe 2061	DISTRICT NURSE/ MIDWIFE AND HEALTH VISITOR
Attached to Drs. Carr, Wyatt and Scott Jupp and Bournemouth G.P.'s.	Miss D. Hayes, 61, Baring Road, Southbourne, Bournemouth. Tel: Bournemouth 47334	HEALTH VISITOR
Attached to Drs. Deane, Druitt and Lawrence and Dr. Freeth.	Miss E.M. Gibbs, 4, Sandy Lane, Christchurch. Tel: Christchurch 2015.	HEALTH VISITOR
Attached to Drs. Kay, Pearce and Elphick and Dr. Barnett.	Miss K. Sheldon, 97, The Grove, Christchurch. Tel: Christchurch 6260	HEALTH VISITOR
Attached to Drs. Bolton and Cantlie. Chest Clinic Health Visitor.	Mrs. E. Stone, 17, Springfield Avenue, Christchurch. Tel: Christchurch 3269.	HEALTH VISITOR
Christchurch (Relief) Attached to Dr. McLeish and unattached Bournemouth G.P.'s.	Mrs. M. Monk, 6, Hadden Road, Queens Park, Bournemouth. Tel: Bournemouth 35600	P/T HEALTH VISITOR

3. Home Help Service. (To come under the control of the Social Services Department)

Divisional Home Help Office: Health Centre, Hillcroft,
New Street, Lymington. Tel: Lymington 2073.

4. Child Health Clinics.

<u>Clinic</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Time</u>
Christchurch	County Council Health Clinic Millhams Street	Every Tuesday 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.
Somerford	Social Centre Southey Road	Every Wednesday at 2.30 p.m.
Highcliffe	St. Mark's New Church Hall	First Friday in month at 2.30 p.m.

5. School Health Service.

School medical inspections are carried out periodically by Assistant County Medical Officers and Health Visitors.

Dental and special clinics are held at the Millhams Street Health Clinic.

6. Immunisation against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Tetanus and Poliomyelitis and Vaccination against Smallpox.

Treatment is carried out by family doctors and at Child Health Clinics and Schools. The organisation and recording of much of the primary immunisation is now undertaken by the County computer. Consents having been obtained the computer selects children due for immunisation at the appropriate time and prints invitation cards and doctors' lists. Repeat invitations are issued for missed appointments. Completed records are fed into the computer where they are stored for reference when required. There is already evidence that the specific computer invitations are having a good effect.

Type of Vaccine	Year of Birth					Others under 16	Total
	1970	1969	1968	1967	1966-63		
<u>DIPHTHERIA - WHOOPING COUGH & TETANUS</u>							
Primary	1	249	82	4	3	-	339
Re-inforcing	-	1	22	23	45	9	100
<u>DIPHTHERIA--TETANUS</u>							
Primary	2	3	-	1	5	-	11
Re-inforcing	-	-	-	5	300	7	312
<u>POLIOMYELITIS</u>							
Primary	1	251	88	7	7	1	355
Re-inforcing	-	2	12	9	341	23	387

Smallpox Vaccination

Age	Months				Years			Total
	0-3	3-6	6-9	9-12	1year	2-4	5-15	
Primary Vaccinations	-	2	-	7	124	159	22	314
Re-Vaccinations	-	-	-	-	-	9	42	51

7. Measles Vaccination.

A good response to measles vaccination was obtained in spite of the difficulties experienced in the previous year. Invitations for vaccination are now issued by the computer and it is hoped that a continued high rate of vaccination can be maintained, eventually resulting in virtual abolition of measles in the area.

1970	1969	1968	1967	1966-63	Under 16	Total
-	173	158	46	161	13	551

8. Rubella (German Measles) Vaccination

Rubella is a relatively mild virus infection most common in childhood and not always easy to diagnose with certainty. However, should it be contracted by a pregnant woman, particularly in her first trimester, there is a likelihood that the baby will be born mentally or physically handicapped. An effective vaccine now exists and the Department of Health and Social Security has recommended its use in girls between the ages of 11 and 14. A start was made on 13 year olds in the autumn and a good response was obtained. Further age groups will be covered in due course.

1956	1957	Total
102	40	142

SCHOOLS:

There are few changes in our schools. The three Secondary Schools have become comprehensive and at all of them extensions are under construction or planned.

Highcliffe C.E. Infant School continues to use the old school as an annexe.

Full use is being made of the school swimming pools and there is a proposal to cover the pool at Somerford in order that it can be used throughout the year.

WATER:

Christchurch is supplied with water by the West Hampshire Water Company whose works are situated within the Borough. The Company, in addition, supplies part of Bournemouth, the whole of the Rural District of Ringwood and Fordingbridge, part of the New Forest Rural District and part of the Borough of Lymington. Partially treated water in bulk is also pumped to the oil refinery at Fawley.

The raw water is drawn from the River Avon at Christchurch and treated by slow sand filtration and super chlorination. In addition the Company has a source of supply from deep boreholes in the chalk at Hale Park, some 16 miles north of Christchurch near the Wiltshire border. This supply serves Ringwood and Fordingbridge Rural District and also supplements the supply in Christchurch.

Raw and treated waters are examined daily at the Company's own water testing laboratory which is in charge of a qualified chemist and bacteriologist. In addition, periodic independent samples are sent to an outside laboratory.

The supply of water to the consumer is constant, of moderate hardness, free from plumbo solvent action, and entirely free from metals.

The Company's records show 12,033 separately assessed domestic dwellings to be supplied from their mains in Christchurch. No standpipes are in use.

A typical result of an examination of the treated water is shown below:-

THE COUNTIES PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORIES

ANALYSIS OF A SAMPLE OF WATER received 23.9.70
from WEST HAMPSHIRE WATER COMPANY

CHEMICAL RESULTS IN MILLIGRAMS PER LITRE (ppm)

Appearance: Clear and bright.		Turbidity(A.P.H.A. units):	Nil
Colour (Hazen):	8	Odour:	Nil
pH:	7.9	Free Carbon Dioxide:	5
Electric Conductivity:	390	Dissolved Solids dried at 180°C:	280
Reciprocal Megohms per cm.			
Chlorine present as Chloride:	21	Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate:	195
Hardness: Total	230	Carbonate:	195
		Non-carbonate:	35
Nitrate Nitrogen:	3.0	Nitrite Nitrogen:	Absent
Ammoniacal Nitrogen:	0.02	Oxygen Absorbed:	1.0
Albuminoid Nitrogen:	0.04	Residual Chlorine:	Absent
Metals:: Iron, zinc, copper, lead:	Absent;	Fluoride:	Absent

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS:

	(1 day at 37°C	2 days at 37°C	3 days at 20-22°C
Number of colonies developing (on Agar	(0 per ml	1 per ml	4 per ml
	<u>Present in</u>	<u>Absent from</u>	<u>Most probable No.</u>
Presumptive Coliform reaction	...ml	100 ml	0 per 100 ml
Bact. Coli. (Type 1)	...ml	100 ml	0 per 100 ml
Cl. Welchii reaction	100ml	10 ml	

This sample is clear and bright in appearance, has a reaction on the alkaline side of neutrality and is free from metals. The water is hard in character but its hardness and its content of mineral and saline constituents in solution are not excessive. The water is of a high standard of organic quality and bacterial purity.

These results indicate a pure and wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic uses.

SEWERAGE:

Up to the autumn of 1970 the sewage works performed satisfactorily. The municipal employees strike in the autumn, which extended over six weeks, resulted in the withdrawal of all manual work and the works were kept going by three of the managerial staff on a shift basis. Fortunately there were no mechanical breakdowns and a remarkably satisfactory effluent was maintained throughout. However, the strike resulted in a gradual clogging up of the works and when the strike ended much time had to be spent in removing ~~accumulations~~. Sludge digestion was seriously interfered with and has taken long to recover. Some smell from partially digested sludge was inevitable.

Liquid sludge continues to be removed by tanker for disposal on farm land.

Work has continued on the Hudeford Drainage Scheme but has been delayed by difficulties with the contractors. Completion is not now anticipated until Autumn 1971.

HOUSING:

237 private houses were built during the year as compared with 208 in the previous year. 50 Council houses were constructed. 21 demolitions were carried out.

The following details relating to housing accommodation and the current waiting list have been kindly supplied by the Housing Officer - Mrs. M. Clark.

Families housed in Council accommodation: 117.

There were 243 applicants on the housing list, made up as follows:-

Demolitions...	6
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<u>GENERAL HOUSING LIST</u>	217
(Includes 45 Servicemen, applicants in tied accommodation and 14 engaged couples)	

Old People's Dwellings

Strete Mount	11
Gordon Mount	4
Sydney and Rutland Roads	3

Revvo Castor Company

(Balance of Allocation until March 1971 only): 2

APPLICANTS ON HOUSING LIST

<u>1966</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>1968</u>	<u>19 9</u>	<u>1970</u>
283	325	351	331	243

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, SECTION 47:

No action was required under this section.

GENERAL REMARKS:

The health of the Borough was satisfactory throughout the year.

The incidence of notifiable infectious disease was again very low. Measles notifications, though slightly increased, remained very low under the influence of measles vaccination.

The estimated mid-year population increased by 230 to 32,010. This is the smallest increase since 1953. Deaths exceeded births by 138.

The birth rate again fell and was again the lowest ever recorded in the Borough. The adjusted rate which makes allowance for the age and sex distribution in the Borough was above the national average.

The infant mortality rate was low.

The death rate increased to nearer the average of recent years. The adjusted rate was below the national average.

The Mudeford Sewerage Scheme has suffered some delays. The Disposal Works continued to operate and discharge a satisfactory effluent throughout the period of the municipal employees' strike.

My sincere thanks are due to colleagues in other departments for their advice and assistance, and above all to the staff of the Public Health Department for their loyal co-operation at all times.

D.J.N. McNAB.

Medical Officer of Health.

June 1971.

B O R O U G H O F C H R I S T C H U R C H

R E P O R T

O F T H E

C H I E F P U B L I C H E A L T H I N S P E C T O R

A N D

C L E A N S I N G S U P E R I N T E N D E N T

F O R T H E Y E A R

1 9 7 0 .

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS
OF THE BOROUGH OF CHRISTCHURCH.

I have pleasure in presenting to you my sixth Annual Report covering the work of the Department during the year ending 31st December, 1970.

Last year I reported that the Department was having difficulty in coping with the additional work required of it. A small amount of reorganisation within the Department has led to some improvement.

HOUSING.

As early as 1966, when the Dennington Report was published, it was recognised that unless the present decay of the older type of houses in the country was stemmed, a serious housing shortage would result. This report appreciated the need for changes in the types of Improvement Grants available and also recommended measures to bring together the various bodies having an interest in housing administration. However, at that time the legislation available for dealing with repair and improvement was in many ways cumbersome. The Housing Act of 1969 made a significant step towards achieving the aims of the Dennington Commission.

In order to effect a comprehensive approach to housing in the Borough, responsibility for Improvement Grants was last year vested with this department, thus making Public Health Inspectors responsible for the repair, improvement and clearance of dwellings within the Borough. The wisdom of this approach can be seen when this year's figures are examined. The number of Grant applications has increased by nearly 300% and, more important still, approximately one third of these are from landlords of rented property. Much of the credit for this encouraging trend must go to the Public Health Inspectors themselves who have through their daily contact with the property owners vigorously publicised the mutual advantages of the Grants Scheme to both landlord and tenant.

Where an area contains a number of houses which need improving it is obviously better to improve all these dwellings together. If at the same time something can be achieved to improve the environment of that area then clearly this would be the most satisfactory approach. The Improvement Area procedure enables Local Authorities to do just this. Government Grants are available for the Local Authority to improve the environment of the area by way of provision of play spaces for children, seats and gardens for the aged, tree planting, off street parking and the like. Work on such an area has commenced in Christchurch this year, where it is hoped not only to improve the houses, but to upgrade their immediate surroundings and so provide a more healthy and pleasant environment without detriment to the character of the Borough.

The 1969 Housing Act has also had a considerable effect on the state of repair of rented dwellings. Under this Act a landlord may apply for a Fair Rent Certificate to the Rent Officer if the dwelling meets certain qualifying conditions, that is, it must have all of the standard amenities, inside W.C., bath, sink, wash-hand basin and hot water supply and must also be in a good state of repair. When a house meets these conditions this department issues a Qualification Certificate which enables the applicant to obtain his Fair Rent Certificate from the Rent Officer. Of the 158 applications for Qualification Certificates that were received by the department this year it is notable that only 5 of them met the qualifying conditions as far as repair was concerned. The remaining 153 all necessitated repair schedules to be served on the applicants. It can be seen that these initial inspections, the preparation of repair schedules, the subsequent supervision of works and liaison with builders and agents, together with the final issue of the Certificate has resulted in a considerable increase in work load to the department. Additionally, the numbers of other houses repaired and demolished have increased by nearly 400% this year and reflects a most encouraging year's work in the housing field. Given this rate of progress I am confident that in the not too distant future every family in Christchurch will be living in a house that is in good repair and which contains all the standard amenities, such as baths, wash basins, hot water and inside W.C.'s.

Improvement Grant applications.....	22.
Standard Grant applications.....	8.
Qualification Certificate applications (Improvement cases).....	8.
Qualification Certificate applications (Existing amenities).....	150.
No. of houses repaired.....	57.
No. of houses demolished.....	18.
No. of Demolition Orders served.....	6.
No. of Closing Orders served.....	1.

INSPECTION OF FOOD PREMISES.

Regular inspections of all Food premises are carried out as often as possible to ensure that Food premises are kept up to a reasonable standard of hygiene. There was a small increase in the number of visits carried out during this year.

FOOD INSPECTION.

Food of all descriptions is inspected at the request of any traders in the area. If any shopkeeper has any doubts about the fitness of any food he has simply to contact the Department. The food will be inspected and he will be advised accordingly. Should the food prove to be unsound it is taken away to be buried in refuse tip under the supervision of the Inspector.

The following is a list of food condemned during the year through voluntary surrender.

Fish.....	8 stone.
Meat.....	22 stone 1 lb.
Cooked Meat and Meat Products.....	100 lbs.
Mixed Tins Fruit, Fish and Vegetables.....	982 tins.
Other Foods.....	102 jars.
	130 cartons.
	132 packets.
	90 lbs.
	432 bars.
	3 boxes.
	5 bottles.
	5 tubs.
Canned Meats.....	223 cans.
Packets of Frozen Foods due to breakdown in refrigeration.....	3795 packets.
	46 $\frac{1}{2}$ gallons.
	198 lbs. 5 oz.
	24 tins.
	10 trays.
	450 sachets.

UN SOUND FOOD INVESTIGATIONS.

Article of Food	Nature of Complaint	Complainant	Action Taken
Frank- furters.	Foul Smelling.	Private Person.	Investigated and warning letter sent to retailer.
Stuffed Pork Roll and Beef Steak.	Decompos- ition.	Public Health Inspector on routine visit.	Food seized and taken before Justice of Peace for condemnation.
Salted Peanuts.	Glass in nuts.	Private Person.	Matter taken up with Manufacturers. An inspection carried out by Rotherham County Borough, Public Health Inspectors revealed very high standard of hygiene at the premises. Warning letter sent to Manufacturers.
Wholemeal Loaf.	Foreign Substance.	Private Person.	Loaf examined and contaminant substance discovered to be hardened dough due to improper mix. Warning letter to Manufacturers.

Article of Food	Nature of Complaint	Complainant	Action Taken
Wholemeal Loaf.	Fly in Loaf.	Private Person.	Investigation carried out at Bakery and Confectionery shop. Notices served under the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations and the Offices Shops and Railway Premises Act for contraventions. Warning letter sent to Manufacturer regarding loaf.
Jam Tart.	Grey material in Tart.	Private Person.	Jam tart submitted for Laboratory analysis, revealed substance consisted of machine lubricant with iron and graphite particles. Investigation at Manufacturers revealed that this material originated from a build up of graphited lubricant on an oven chain. Lubrication routine regulated at factory, warning letter sent to Manufacturers.
Restaurant Meal.	Screw and spring in meal.	Customer.	Investigation at restaurant revealed that screw and spring had become dislodged from fish frier cover and dropped into chip tray. Warning letter sent.
Meat and Potato Pie.	Mould growths.	Private Person.	Matter investigated at retail and manufacturing stages revealed that pie was manufactured 7 days prior to being sold. Evidence inconclusive, warning letter sent.
Wrapped Loaf.	Mould growths.	Private Person.	Matter investigated and mould found due to a combination of high humidity and temperature and use of plastic film as wrapping material. Warning letter sent.

Article of Food	Nature of Complaint	Complainant	Action Taken
Beef Sausages.	Metal clip in Sausage.	School Meal Service.	Matter investigated at manufacturing stage and metal object discovered to be part of a labelling tag used nationally by the meat trade. Correspondence with Sausage and Meat Pie Manufacturers Association resulted in a recommenda- tion from that Associa- tion for the use of brightly covered plastic pegs for labelling purposes.
Chocolate Cake.	Insect in covering.	Private Person.	Insect discovered to be wasp embedded in choco- late coating. Investi- gations carried out at Bakery and Retail shop. Notices served under Food Hygiene Regulations in respect of offences discovered at shop. Manufacturer prosecuted under Food and Drugs Act in respect of the wasp in cake and fined £5.
Cornish Pasty.	Black discolour- ation.	Private Person.	Investigation at Retailer revealed that pasty had been baked on premises. Numerous other offences under the Food Hygiene Regulations and Food and Drugs Act were discovered. Proceedings instituted for these offences and the unsound Cornish pasty. Shopkeeper subsequently fined a total of £47.

SAMPLING.

The sampling of food and drugs for adulteration is the responsibility of the County Council. Their Chief Inspector, Mr. J.S. Preston, performs these duties, and I am indebted to him for his latest report of samples taken during the year ended 31st March, 1971.

"During the year ended 31st March, 1971, 28 samples were procured under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, within the Borough of Christchurch.

Milk Samples.

4 samples of milk, including 2 of "Channel Islands" were obtained and were found to be satisfactory.

Miscellaneous Samples.

24 samples of articles other than milk were obtained, one being the subject of an adverse report. This was a sample of "Rum and Raisin Ice Cream", which conformed to the relevant standard but contained only 0.6% of proof spirit. The amount of spirit was not sufficient to warrant the description "Rum" and the matter has been referred to the manufacturers for their comments.

General.

In addition to the samples taken under the Food and Drugs Act, the usual attention was given to the labels and descriptions of food and drugs under the provisions of the Labelling of Food Order and the Pharmacy and Medicines Act. No matters of significance occurred."

MILK SUPPLY.

There was a further increase in the number of persons retailing Sterilised and Ultra Heat Treated Milk. The number of retailers selling Untreated Milk has been reduced by one.

All milk retailed in the Borough is bottled at establishments outside the district.

The following list shows the number of dairies and persons registered as distributors, and the number and types of licences in force :-

Number of Distributors of Milk	85
Number of Dairies on Register	3
Dealers licensed to use the designation Untreated Milk	8
Dealers licensed to use the designation Pasteurised Milk	73
Dealers licensed to use the designation Sterilised Milk	31
Dealers licensed to use the designation Ultra Heat Treated Milk	12

ICE CREAM.

The Department has obtained regular samples of Ice Cream and I am pleased to report that these were of a very high standard. Grades 1 and 2 are considered to be good.

95 samples were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, the results being as follows :-

Grade 1.	55
Grade 2.	29
Grade 3.	10
Grade 4.	1

DRAINAGE.

Inspection and repair of existing drainage work is dealt with by the department.

The number of properties not drained to sewers, and the facilities available are :-

Draining to Septic Tanks.....	100
Draining to Cesspools.....	42
Bucket Latrines.....	14
Draining Others.....	2

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

The policy of reviewing the Site Conditions in order to bring these more in line with modern requirements has continued, although we have again been unable to devote the amount of time to this particular duty that we would have liked. Nevertheless, progress is being made.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963.

There has been a small increase in the number of inspections carried out under this heading. The number of premises has again increased but the number of staff employed has virtually remained the same.

The premises registered at the end of the year were as follows :-

Offices	115
Retail Shops	268
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	5
Catering Establishments	45
Fuel Storage Depots	2

Class of Workplace and the number of persons employed :-

Offices	567
Retail Shops	863
Wholesale Departments, Warehouses	72
Catering Establishments	305
Fuel Storage Depots	5

A total of 1,812, of which 1,057 are females.

SWIMMING POOLS.

During the year more comprehensive testing has taken place of all swimming and paddling pools in the area. Generally speaking, school swimming pool operators have experienced difficulty in keeping pH readings at an acceptable level. These pools are being used quite heavily during the day and a number of outside organisations also have the use of them at weekends and evenings. With the small volume of water, proper control is not easy without constant supervision and it may be that the use of iso-cyanurate chlorine compounds which are used by some County Authorities could result in better residual chlorine levels with a reduction in the amount of operator control required.

The Council was recommended by this department to provide the paddling pool at Quomps with an automatic filtration and chlorinating plant and has agreed to do this. When functioning it will result in a significant improvement in the quality of the water in this pool which is a valuable amenity in the Borough appreciated by countless numbers of youngsters.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

(a) Refuse Collection.

A weekly collection service has been maintained throughout the year and delays have been minimal. We have not experienced so much difficulty in obtaining suitable staff. Work Study of this section is being carried out and reorganisation based on a new bonus scheme is expected to be commenced soon.

(b) Refuse Disposal.

Refuse is still being disposed of at a reasonably low cost by controlled tipping on the land at Stanpit Marsh. Efforts are still being made to secure further tipping sites for future use. The Working Party of the South-East Dorset, Bournemouth and South West Hampshire Study Group has now submitted its final report, which recommends that for the short term (next 5 years) Christchurch should continue to use "Controlled Tipping" as the method of disposal, and tipping sites at Nea Croft in Bransgore, and Efford in Lymington, would be suitable sites to use when the existing tipping space at Stanpit is exhausted.

I firmly believe that every effort should be made to make use of any possible tipping sites within the borough before going to the expense of transporting refuse to distant tips within the areas of other local authorities. The possibility of filling a disused gravel pit at St. Catherine's Hill with refuse has aroused much comment. Whilst most people can see the obvious advantage of filling in this ugly scar and restoring the Hill side to its former beauty, there are some who quite naturally are concerned about the effects that the tipping of refuse may have, particularly in relation to smells and vermin. The Public Health Department has always controlled refuse tips in Christchurch and there have been few complaints. We are therefore sufficiently skilled and experienced to ensure that nuisances will be minimised to such an extent that effects on nearby residents will be negligible. Furthermore I intend to seek the approval of the Council for the application of even greater controls than ever before on the lines indicated by the Report on Refuse Disposal, of the National Working Party, which has recently been published.

(c) Transport.

Regular maintenance of transport has continued and administrative worries regarding this particular aspect have been minimised.

SALVAGE.

Income from Salvage for the fiscal year was £6,980 as against £6,660 the previous year. This increase has been achieved in spite of the strike, and is again an all time record.

This section is also receiving the attentions of the Work Study team and this will naturally affect the income in the future.

PEST CONTROL.

Constant attention is required to ensure proper control of rodents and other pests. Although rats and mice are still our main pest, Feral pigeons remain a problem. Collared Doves are on the increase but they are still on the protected list and therefore cannot be controlled.

Total number of premises infested	
and treated during the year	603.
Total number of visits during	
the year	4220.

FACTORIES.

All the factories in the area have continued to receive attention in order to ensure a satisfactory standard of hygiene, particularly in relation to sanitary conveniences and canteens.

GENERAL.

Many other duties are carried out by the Department, such as investigation of smell, noise, smoke and fly nuisances, which all add to the work carried out by your Public Health Department.

I should like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee, the Medical Officer of Health, fellow officials in all Departments, and members of staff of the Public Health Department for their loyal support and co-operation.

CLEMENT WILLARD.

Chief Public Health Inspector
and Cleansing Superintendent.

Stour Cottage,
20, Barrack Road,
Christchurch,
Hants.

August, 1971.

T A B L E 1

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS

Public Health Acts.

Housing inspections	28
Housing revisits	58
Animal keeping	33
Accumulations and deposits	83
Smell nuisances	83
Clean Air Act	35
Noise Abatement Act	107
Infectious diseases	54
Disinfection	6
Filthy and verminous premises/articles	12
Disinfestation	35
Caravans (individual)	33
Camps	74
Water supply	3
Drainage	169
Soil vents, plumbing	10
Septic tanks, cesspools	127
Closet accommodation	5
Public conveniences	8
Dustbins	91
Refuse collection	78
Refuse disposal	527
Salvage	391
Places of public entertainment	2
Schools	3
Swimming baths	88
Ponds, ditches, streams	64
Foreshore	7
Other complaints	1
Paddling pools	6
Pollution	1

Housing Acts.

Housing inspections	135
Housing revisits	251
Overcrowding	4
Houses in multiple occupation	1
Improvement Grants	213
Qualification Certificates	257

T A B L E 1
(continued)

Factories Act.

Factories with power	66
Outworkers	47

Pests Act.

Rats and mice	3916
Other pests	304

Food and Drugs Act.

Catering	88
Bakehouses	6
School canteens	10
Bakers shops	21
Butchers shops	17
Grocers shops	113
Greengrocers and fruiterers	66
Fishmongers	15
Fish-friers	29
Ice-cream	82
Sweet shops	75
Milk shops, dairies	25
Licensed premises	29
Food vehicles	21
Food poisoning	7
Food inspections	71
Food complaints	36
Sampling	108

Offices, Shops and Railway
Premises Act.

General inspections	139
Revisits	232

Shops Acts.

Shop premises	130
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Miscellaneous

Unclassified visits	269
Interviews	16
Committees	26

T A B L E 2.

The following statement shows in detail, work carried out under the supervision of the department.

(a) Drainage and Sanitary Fittings.

Drains cleared	10
Waste pipes repaired	3
Soil vent pipes repaired	1
Hot water system provided	2
Flushing cisterns provided	1
Wash hand basins provided/repared	9
Sinks provided/repared	9
W.C.s cleansed and repaired	5
Water tests	2
Cesspools emptied	1

(b) Miscellaneous.

Defective guttering	17
Roofs repaired	5
Windows repaired/renewed	110
Walls remedied	54
Floors repaired/renewed	9
Doors repaired	36
Stairs or handrail provided	2
Fireplaces repaired/renewed	8
Chimneys repaired	18
Ceilings repaired	25
Dampness remedied	1
Dustbins provided	21
Nuisance - Smells	2
Nuisance - Smoke and fumes	3
Catering establishments	10
Shops-defects	38
Offices, Shops and Railway premises-defects	32
Factories-defects	2

SAMPLES AND SPECIMENS TAKEN

Ice Cream	95
Drinking water	2
Swimming Baths	14
Paddling Pools	13
Milk	2

T A B L E 3

During the year complaints were received as detailed below:-

Rats and mice	524
Food	55
Defective dustbin, or absence of	76
Smells	27
Choked drains	26
Defective roof	2
General defects	6
Dampness	8
Insanitary conditions	14
Fleas and Bugs	13
Accumulation of refuse	10
Stream pollution	1
Nuisance from smoke or fumes	10
Nuisance from noise	13
Nuisance from animals, birds, adders	16
Nuisance from insects and wasps	116
Nuisances from cockroaches	12
Housing conditions	3
Miscellaneous	7

NUMBER OF NOTICES SERVED.

Table 4 shows the action taken to secure the abatement of nuisances and the removal of conditions prejudicial to health.

T A B L E 4.

NOTICES.	OUTSTANDING 31. 12. 69.	NUMBER SERVED.	COMPLIED WITH.	WORK DONE IN DEFAULT BY L.A.	OUTSTANDING 31. 12. 70.
Informal.	131	370	249	-	252
Statutory.	1	18	7	-	12
TOTAL:	132	388	256	-	264

SUMMARY OF STATUTORY NOTICES SERVED:-

Section 93, Public Health Act, 1936	2
Section 89, Public Health Act, 1936	1
Section 29, Public Health Act, 1961	2
Section 9, Housing Act, 1957	2
Section 16, Housing Act, 1957	1
Section 17, Housing Act, 1957	6
Section 19, Food and Drugs Act, 1955	3
Section 4, Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949	1

FACTORIES ACT, 1961.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1970 FOR

THE BOROUGH OF CHRISTCHURCH IN THE COUNTY OF SOUTHAMPTON.

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the
Factories Act, 1961.

PART 1 of the ACT.

1. INSPECTIONS for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

PREMISES:	No. on Register.	N u m b e r o f		
		Inspections.	Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted.
(1) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	6	-	-	-
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	124	113	-	-
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises.)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL:	130	113	-	-

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

PARTICULARS:	No.of cases in which defects were found.				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred:		
			To H.M. Inspector.	By H.M. Inspector.	
Want of cleanliness (S.1.)	2	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2.)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3.)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4.)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	1	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient.	1	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective.	7	4	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes.	1	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork).	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL:	12	-	-	-	-

PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUTWORK.

(Sections 133 and 134)

Nature Of Work.	Section 133.			Section 134.		
	No. of Out- workers in August list required by Section 133 (1) (c).	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council.	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists.	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises.	Notices Served	Prosecutions
Wearing Apparel.	11	-	-	-	-	-
Plastics - Fancy goods.	65	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL:	76	-	-	-	-	-

